

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A snowmobile ski comprising:

- a longitudinally extending runner having a bottom running surface;
- a keel extending downward from the bottom running surface of the runner;
- a generally flat, elongate wear strip having top and bottom surfaces, the top surface being generally contoured to abut the bottom surface of the keel; and
- two skags extending longitudinally along the keel and downward from the bottom surface of the wear strip, the skags each having an inside surface and an outside surface, the skags spaced laterally from each other to define a longitudinal channel between the inside surfaces of the skags, the inside surfaces of the skags extending downward from the surface of the wear strip in a laterally non-inward direction, ~~surfaces facing the skag inside surfaces do not extend laterally toward the inside surfaces~~ the bottom running surface defining a longitudinal center, the skags being positioned such that they extend longitudinally more rearwardly of the running surface center than forwardly of the running surface center.

Claims 2 (Original): The snowmobile ski of claim 1 wherein the keel has lower outside edges each aligned with respective outside edges of the wear strip, the skags each having upper outside edges aligned with respective outside edges of the wear strip.

Claim 3 (Original): The snowmobile ski of claim 1, wherein the skags have generally rectangular cross-sections.

Claim 4 (Original): The snowmobile ski of claim 1 wherein the inside surfaces of the skags extend downward from the bottom surface of the wear strip linearly.

Claim 5 (Original): The snowmobile ski of claim 1 wherein the runner includes an upwardly curved forward end portion, the wear strip extending forwardly of the skags to cover and protect

at least a part of the bottom surface of the runner's upwardly curved forward end portion from wear.

Claim 6 (Original): The snowmobile ski of claim 1 wherein the wear strip extends forwardly of the skags so that the wear strip at least partially fills a skag track in the snow encountered by the ski.

Claim 7 (Original): The snowmobile ski of claim 1 wherein the skags are tapered at their front and rear ends.

Claim 8 (Original): The snowmobile ski of claim 1 wherein the skags taper at front and rear ends toward the strip.

Claim 9 (Original): The snowmobile ski of claim 1 wherein the wear strip extends longitudinally behind the skags so that the track left by the skags in the snow may be at least partially filled in by the wear strip.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A snowmobile ski comprising:

a longitudinally extending runner having a bottom surface;

a downwardly extending keel along the bottom surface of the runner, the keel having right and left lower side edges; and

two skags extending longitudinally along and downward from the keel, the skags each having an inside surface and an outside surface, the skags spaced laterally from each other to define a longitudinal channel between the inside surfaces of the skags, the inside surfaces of the skags extending downward from the keel in a laterally non-inward direction, ~~the upper outside edges each skag being aligned laterally with the respective lower side edge of the keel~~ the distance between the upper outer edges of the skags being generally equal to distance between the right and left lower side edges of the keel

Serial No.: 10/061,839

Page 4 of 10

Claim 12 (Original): The snowmobile ski of claim 11, wherein the lateral spacing of the skags is maintained by a wear strip rigidly interconnecting the skags.

Claim 13 (Original): The snowmobile ski of claim 11, further including a generally flat, elongate wear strip having top and bottom surfaces, the top surface being generally contoured to abut the bottom surface of the keel.

Claim 14 (Original): The ski of claim 11 wherein the runner includes a center point, the skags being positioned such that they extend more rearwardly of the center point than forwardly of the center point.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The ski of claim 12, wherein the skags and wear strip are integrally formed.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A snowmobile ski comprising:

a longitudinally extending runner having a bottom running surface, the ~~runner~~ running surface having a longitudinal center point;

a keel extending downward from the bottom running surface of the runner, the keel having a bottom surface;

two skags extending longitudinally along the keel, the skags spaced laterally from each other to define a longitudinal channel between the skags, the skags having a longitudinal center located rearwardly of the longitudinal center of the running surface, ~~runner, the skags having a length of between about 13/45 and 16/40 of the runner length;~~ and

carbide strips extending longitudinally beneath each skag, each carbide strip having a longitudinal center located forward of the longitudinal center of the respective skag.

Claim 17 (original): The ski of claim 16, wherein the skags have generally rectangular cross-sections.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The ski of claim 16, wherein the skags are integrally formed with a wear strip rigidly interconnecting the skags.

Serial No.: 10/061,839

Page 5 of 10

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A kit for converting a single skag ski into a dual skag ski when the single skag is removed from the single skag ski, the kit comprising:

a generally flat, elongate wear strip having top and bottom surfaces, the top surface being generally contoured to abut a bottom surface of the ski;

two skags extending longitudinally along and downward from the bottom surface of the wear strip, the skags each having an inside surface and an outside surface, the skags spaced laterally from each other to define a longitudinal channel between the inside surfaces of the skags, the inside surfaces of the skags extending downward from the surface of the wear strip such that their inside surfaces do not extend laterally towards each other, the channel remaining generally free of surfaces that extend downwardly laterally toward the skag inside surfaces, whereby the channel is generally free of undercutting surfaces that potentially trap debris against the skag inside surfaces ~~surfaces facing the skag inside surfaces do not extend laterally toward the inside surfaces; and~~

an attachment mechanism that connects the wear strip to the bottom surface of the ski.

Claim 20 (original): The kit of claim 19, wherein the attachment mechanism includes a plurality of threaded rods configured for extension through corresponding holes in the ski to be secured by nuts.

Claim 21 (original): The kit of claim 19, wherein the wear strip and skags are integrally formed.

Claim 22 (original): The kit of claim 19, wherein the skags have a generally rectangular cross-section.